

# KEEPING CT KIDS HEALTHY

*News from the Connecticut Vaccine Program*



Department of Public Health Immunization Program

Winter 2014

## CHILDHOOD VACCINATION PROGRAM UPDATES

### *Annual Re-enrollment*

Each year providers are required per federal regulation to re-enroll in the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP). Providers were sent re-enrollment forms in early November 2013 with a deadline to complete the forms by December 31<sup>st</sup>. To date 91 % of providers have re-enrolled. CVP staff are following up with the remaining 65 providers to ensure 100 % compliance.

### *Distribution Rates*

As of January 27th, 689 providers are participating in the Connecticut Vaccine Program. Since influenza vaccine became available in August 2013 nearly 275,000 doses of flu vaccine have been ordered and distributed through the CVP to providers across the state. Of that total, over 96,000 doses have been for children 6-23 months of age and 61,150 doses of intranasal FluMist have been distributed.



In calendar year 2013, 1,085,035 doses of vaccine were ordered and distributed to CVP providers. This amount is a 27 % increase from the 851,130 doses distributed in 2012 before the advent of the CVP.

### *Decreased Waste*

As part of a federal grant requirement, the CVP tracks vaccine wastage (expiration, spoilage, etc). In 2013 vaccine wastage reported to the CVP totaled \$123,353 — a 32 percent decrease from the previous year's total of \$181,887.

### *Childhood Vaccine Advisory Council (CVAC)*

On February 26th, the newly constituted Childhood Vaccine Advisory Council (CVAC) will hold its first meeting. The council is established under Section 4-8 of the General Statutes and includes representation from various health professional organizations involved in the delivery of childhood immunizations. The CVAC will advise the commissioner of the Department of Public Health on all matters relating to the CVP. The council's objective is to improve health outcomes for children in Connecticut by reducing vaccine preventable diseases through the effective, efficient, and evidence based use of CVP supplied vaccine. The CVAC will be chaired by Dr. Steve Updegrave with Dr. Tom Fromson serving as Vice-Chair.

The Connecticut Vaccine Program ensures all children in the state receive the vaccinations they need to stay healthy. For more information, visit us at [www.ct.gov/dph/cvp](http://www.ct.gov/dph/cvp).  
Or contact us at (860) 509-7929 or [dph.immunizations@ct.gov](mailto:dph.immunizations@ct.gov)

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## *Ordering Online With VTrckS*

In November 2013 CVP staff began training providers who expressed interest in placing their orders directly on-line through the VTrckS software application. To date 18 provider offices have begun ordering on-line with training of additional offices continuing throughout 2014. The benefits for providers who have access to VTrckS include:

- placing vaccine requests directly into VTrckS
- tracking vaccine orders from the time they are placed until the time they are delivered
- placing vaccine returns
- submitting vaccine inventory and doses administered data

For more information about gaining access to VTrckS, please call Mick Bolduc, CVP coordinator at (860) 509-7940.

## *National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW),*

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), set for **April 26 – May 3, 2014**, is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities.

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of NIIW. Since 1994, hundreds of communities across the United States have joined together to celebrate the critical role vaccination plays in protecting our children, communities, and public health.

To learn more about NIIW, click [here](#)



## *We want to hear from you*

Providers will soon receive the CVP provider satisfaction survey to gauge providers' experiences with the rollout of the program and to ask for any comments towards improving the CVP. Your feedback matters. Please share your thoughts and suggestions.